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PERONISTS PIAN TO HOID MEETING IN CORDOBA

PY120138 Buenos Aires CIARIN in Spanish 11 Apr 79 p 6 PY

[Text] It was announced that there will be a Peronist conclave in Cordoba during the next few days. This will reportedly gather together the party's principal leaders from the country's central provinces.

The vice president of the National Justicialist Council, Deolindo Felipe Bittel, will attend the debates, during which newsmen will examine the consolidation of party unity and the position Justicialism should eventually present to the government.

According to reports, the idea to hold this meeting came about as a result of talks held during a recent tour by former Catamarca Governor Vicente Leonidas Saadi.

In addition, it was disclosed that Cordoba Peronists established a political action committee with the participation of representatives from various sectors. Included among these are Raul Bercovich Rodriguez, Julio Antin, Leonardo Obeid, Cesar Cuesta Carnero and Tomas Montilla.

SWISS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRADE UNDER STUDY

PY120111 Buenos Aires HERAID in English 11 Apr 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Bern--Argentina has offered to stock radioactive waste from Switzerland's nuclear power plants in exchange for Swiss atomic know-how, a government official said yesterday.

The director of the Swiss Federal Office for Energy Supplies, Edouard Kiener, said Switzerland was studying the offer but would continue to seek an international solution on disposing of nuclear waste under the control of an organization such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Argentina, which has one atomic plant in operation, has held discussions with the Swiss Sulzer firm about building a heavy water plant in the Latin American country--a move which would need Swiss Government approval, Kiener said.

An Argentine delegation which visited Switzerland last month asked for Swiss help in nuclear technology, offering in exchange to stock waste from Swiss reactors, he told reporters.

Argentina, which has not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, would have to promise that it would use the technology only for peaceful ends, he added.

VIDELA APPROVES FIRST STEP ON YACYRETA ACCORD

PY120050 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0009 GMT 12 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (NA)--The president of the nation has approved the bases for implementing a preliminary agreement between Argentina and Paraguay on the Yacyreta project. This information was released tonight by the Public Information Secretariat.

BRIEFS

MEAT EXPORTS--The National Meat Board has reported that meat exports during 1978 reached 598,852 tons for $780,037,000, as compared to 497,441 tons for $606,868,000 during 1977. [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Apr 79 p 4 Section B PY]

PARTIES, GOVERNMENT, CONCERNED AT OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE

PY120144 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz--The government and political parties have begun to show some concern over the first outbreaks of violence that may jeopardize the Bolivian democratization process. The left is accusing the right of trying to undermine electoral plans, while the right charges the left with seeking chaos to further their conspiracies.

In the last 48 hours three attacks took place in different parts of the country. On Monday a group of unknown persons tried to set fire to a La Paz movie theater that was showing a protest film. The Human Rights Assembly reported an attack with explosives against one of its members in the southern city of (Chupiza), endangering the life of (Maria Luisa Vargas). In Copacabana, on Lake Titicaca, unknown individuals blew up the generator that supplies power for the city.

These attacks have taken place a week after the issuance of a decree that warned the citizens that every attack against order and the process of democratization would be severely punished.

Today a government spokesman reaffirmed that the military junta presided over by Gen David Padilla will go on with its plans for democratization of the country and the return to a constitutional system. The spokesman warned that if those responsible for these attacks are identified they will be severely punished.

Leftist parties blame the attacks on the rightist parties, which they accuse of seeking to confuse the citizenry, thus enabling them to carry out their conspiracies. In turn, the rightists accuse the leftwing parties of encouraging chaos and anarchy in order to perpetrate a coup d'etat. Last week the weekly(EL PODER), pro-Banzer, accused the Bolivian left of being involved in a subversive plot.

The three attacks took place 6 [as heard] weeks before the general elections. The Interior Ministry said today that there is complete tranquillity in the country and the security organizations are on alert to prevent any disruptions.

PAZ ZAMORA MOVE CAUSES RIFT AT MNRI CONVENTION

PY120222 La Paz Radio Cruz Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The first convention of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left will close tonight by nominating Siles Zuazo and Paz Zamora for the coming elections. Today's meeting discussed a number of organizational, ideological and electoral issues. All the resolutions submitted by the working groups were approved without too much ado, with the exception of one proposing Jaime Paz Zamora as Siles Zuazo's vice president. This resolution elicited general whistling from the delegates.

Sandoval Moron, former candidate for vice president, refused his nomination in order to allow the MNRI to propose the Siles Zuazo-Paz Zamora ticket for the Popular and Democratic Unity Front.

However, there is talk among the conventioneers who are meeting at the Mexico movie theater that if Sandoval Moron is not appointed deputy chief of the MNRI, many departmental branches and other grassroots organizations might leave this convention. Other reports indicated that due to Siles Zuazo's stubborness on this matter, several sectors have already decided to join the forces of (Jorge Alderete Rosales), who is leader of another faction of the MNRI.

LABOR PARTY MAKES FORMAL REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION

PY112257 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] The new Brazilian Labor Party [PTB] is emerging formally. The legalization process began yesterday when a request for provisional registration was acknowledged by the Supreme Electoral Court in Brasilia.

Reporter (Redson Cardoso) has more on the subject:

[(Cardoso)] None of the signatures on the document belong to parliamentarians. All signatures, except those of (Darcy Ribeiro), Muniz Bandeira, Doutel de Andrade and Almir Alfonso, on the PTB request belong to common people. Deputies Magnus Guimaraes, Getulio Dias and Jose Mauricio, sponsors of the PTB in Parliament, explain that the absence of signatures of deputies and senators reflects the PTB intention of establishing itself on a popular basis.

The PTB registration request caused surprise. Nobody, not even the sponsors of the future party, expected that the measure would be taken now. In fact, the request at this time basically forestalled the initiative of Deputy Ivete Vargas, who intended to ask for the registration of a labor party on 19 April. The step taken by Getulio Dias, Magnus Guimaraes and Jose Mauricio was also intended to prevent attempts among government circles to create another labor party.

The PTB is led by Leone Brizola. Yesterday two contacts were made with Brizola, who is in New York. In the first contact, the PTB sponsors announced that they would request registration today. In the afternoon, Getulio Dias, Magnus Guimaraes and Jose Mauricio gave Brizola some details regarding the repercussions of the registration request. Tomorrow another telephone call to the former Rio de Janeiro deputy and former Rio Grande do Sul governor, exiled in the United States, will allow Magnus Guimaraes to tell him of further repercussions caused by the PTB registration request and to exchange opinions with him on strategy for the search of a large membership and strength. (Redson Cardoso), Bandeirantes News Service.

Guimaraes may even add that the next step by the new PTB will be the return of Brizola. Regarding his return, the parliamentarian asserted that the workers know Brizola will be arrested as soon as he steps on Brazilian soil. Therefore, the workers do not wish to hasten Brizola's return until an amnesty is obtained through a presidential decree on the initiative of the government or the congress.

CONGRESSMEN SAY PRESTES, OTHERS TO RECEIVE AMNESTY

PY110257 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Apr 79 p 5 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Amnesty will be gradually implemented over a maximum period of 12 months, excluding only those who were punished for violent crimes or terrorist attacks, according to ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] congressmen who met with the justice minister recently.

The impression gathered by the congressmen is that the present government will not propose a package of political measures to Congress but separate proposals, such as those related to amnesty, direct elections and the change of the party system. The amnesty initially will benefit those punished by the revolution for political reasons, including former governors Miguel Arraes of Pernambuco State and Leonel Brizola of Rio Grande do Sul State, in addition to Luiz Carlos Prestes himself, secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB].

Later, it will include 10 percent of all other former civilian or military officials punished.

The congressmen reported that Prestes, Brizola and Arraes will also be amnestied by the Figueiredo administration. They said: "If after their return to Brazil, they commit new crimes--for instance, that of attempting to reorganize the illegal PCB--we would then be facing a new situation. The courts will then decide whether to punish them or not."

12 'DEATH SQUAD' VICTIMS FOUND IN RIO SUBURBS

PY111816 Paris AFP in Spanish 1451 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 11 Apr (FP)--It was reported here today that 12 bullet-riddled bodies, victims of the Death Squad, have been found in the last 24 hours in the Rio de Janeiro suburbs. According to reports in the Rio de Janeiro press, the majority of the victims showed signs of having been tortured before they were murdered.

ANGRA 1 COMPONENTS FOUND FAULTY; TO BE REPLACED

PY120216 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Apr 79 p 12 PY

[Excerpts] Two condensers at the Angra 1 nuclear plant have been rejected because they do not meet international safety specifications and their internal tubing will have to be replaced by the Furnas Electric Company, technicians of the company informed the congressional investigation commission which has visited the plant site. The information was confirmed later by Furnas Chairman Licinio Marcelo Seabra. The decision was made by Furnas a month ago on recommendation by Westinghouse, which supplied the equipment.

Furnas technical director Sergio Saldanha da Gama Mota stated: "The plant's conventional equipment, including the secondary refrigeration system, is now undergoing a hot test and cleaning. It would be very complicated to stop these operations to replace the corrosion-prone pipes. The company intends to go into operation normally and make the replacement of the pipes probably during the first reactor's shutdown to replace fuel rods a year after the plant has gone into commercial operation."

PRICES OF ITEMS IN SUPERMARKETS FROZEN FOR 2 MONTHS

PY110237 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Apr 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Starting today and for 2 months, any price increase in supermarket products is prohibited. In order to do this, an agreement was signed yesterday by the Brazilian Supermarket Association [ABRAS] and the ministers of planning, finance and social communications, in another government effort to curb inflation. Tomorrow Finance Minister Karlos Rischbieter will announce two more anti-inflation measures: 80 percent of bank funds will be destined for use in specific credit purposes, while credit sales will suffer new restrictions.

Authorities in the financial field are preparing a large economic "package" for disclosure on 18 April. The package should include a limit on foreign loans undertaken by private enterprises through an increase in revenue taxes on operational interests, and a top limit of six percent on the difference between interests received from national treasury bonds and other securities.

RELATIVES OF MISSING SEEK REPEAL OF AMNESTY LAW

PY120140 Paris AFP in Spanish 2348 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Apr (AFP)--The families of missing prisoners today asked the Chilean military government to repeal an amnesty law promulgated a year ago.

According to them, "this would prevent those responsible for the deaths of some of our relatives from going unpunished."

The amnesty law went into effect on 19 April 1978, and it (?cancelled) charges of homicide and other crimes committed after the military takeover of September 1973.

The families of missing prisoners reasserted that after that date, when deceased Socialist President Salvador Allende was ousted, (?620) persons disappeared in Chile "after having been arrested by security personnel."

During a press conference, they added that the 15 bodies recently found in an abandoned mine in Lonquen, outside Santiago, belonged to peasants from that area detained by the Carabineros in October 1973.

The families of the missing prisoners issued the text of a letter sent to the interior minister, Sergio Fernandez, expressing fear that "the authors of the Lonquen crime" would benefit from the amnesty law.

The letter adds: "Your government should face the responsibility it has in these events and order the repeal of the amnesty law."

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION VISITING

PY110259 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Officials of the French Foreign Ministry are now visiting Chile to look into the present status of bilateral relations in the cultural, scientific and technological fields. The delegation is headed by the chief of state for bilateral relations in economic and foreign affairs. The delegation has met with Deputy Foreign Minister Gen Enrique Valdes and other officials.

The French delegation announced that a group of industrialists and businessmen will come to Chile to look into possibilities of participating in development plans and of making commercial and industrial linkups.

BRIEFS

COPPER PRICES--Copper prices are now at $1.00 per pound. This price increase grants the Chilean Government greater flexibility in handling its economic policy, according to Rafael Aldunate, deputy director of the Chilean Copper Commission. The new copper price is the highest since 1974. Economic experts have noted, however, that copper prices are very capricious since they may decrease just as drastically as they increase. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY]

NUCLEAR ENERGY MEETING--Santiago, Chile, 10 Apr (LATIN)--The vice president of the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission, Max Von Brand, has announced that the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Committee will meet in Santiago in June to evaluate the research possibilities of the hemisphere. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0153 GMT 11 Apr 79 PY]

CELLULOSE EXPORTS--Santiago, Chile, 10 Apr (AFP)--The Chilean National Forest Corporation has reported that cellulose exports during 1978 reached $103.6 million, as compared to $82.4 million during 1977. [Paris AFP in Spanish 10 Apr 79 PY]

FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

Schmidt Press Conference

PA120305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2352 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (EFE)--German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt noted here today that the industrialized countries and the underdeveloped countries should find mechanisms to stabilize the prices of raw materials. He also said that the oil-producing countries must avoid indiscriminate changes in the prices of oil based on political reasons. Schmidt made these statements during a news conference given at the end of his activities in Peru. The chancellor, concluding an official visit which started on Saturday, left the country for the Dominican Republic. He had previously visited Brazil.

Schmidt also asked the developing nations to guarantee investments by industrialized nations and the transfer of profits. He noted that a real transfer of technology to the developing nations "can only be done through private enterprise" and not as official government-to-government aid. He stressed that the industrialized nations must increase their aid to underdeveloped nations.

Schmidt met with Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez and Prime Minister Pedro Richter. He appeared before a solemn session of the Constituent Assembly yesterday. Two financial agreements worth 28 million marks were signed during Schmidt's stay in Peru. The funds will be used for local irrigation projects. Schmidt's retinue included the heads of the Krupp and Volkswagen enterprises, who met with Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva.

The FRG is an important importer of Peruvian products, and it exports machinery and chemical, pharmaceutical and electrical products to Peru. The FRG buys fish flour, lead, zinc, copper, cotton, coffee and wool from Peru. Germany has also invested in petroleum exploration, in the chemical, steel and mining industries, and in supermarkets, textiles and other products. It is also helping Peru on irrigation projects, establishment of a zinc foundry, construction of fishing ports and other development plans. Total Peruvian-German trade amounted to (?192) million [currency unspecified] in 1978, a decrease of 33 percent since 1973.

This is the first time a German chancellor has visited Latin America, a region to which Germany devotes 50 percent of its total aid to developing nations. This aid totalled $2.18 billion last year.

Departure Ceremony

PA111735 Paris AFP in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 11 Apr (AFP)--German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt left today at 1135 (1635 GMT) for the Dominican Republic after an official 5-day visit to Peru. The head of the German Government was seen off at Jorge Chavez International Airport by Prime Minister and Minister of War Gen Pedro Richter, Peruvian Foreign Minister Carlos Garcia Bedoya, Cabinet ministers and personnel of the German diplomatic mission in Lima. A Peruvian Armed Forces detachment rendered the protocol honors due the high rank of the illustrious visitor, who along with his wife and party will complete a tour of Latin America in the Dominican Republic.

EL SALVADOR

FARN REISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON BRITISH BANKERS

PA112052 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1635 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Apr (LATIN)--The Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), which has been holding two British bankers captive for over 4 months, has demanded that the British Government refrain from obstructing negotiations for their release.

Last night, the terrorist group broke a silence of several days by reiterating a communique issued 1 month ago by means of propaganda bombs in several parts of the capital.

The reiteration of the document encouraged speculation that the bankers Ian Cameron Massie and Michael Stanislaus Chatterton are still alive. They have been in captivity since 30 November.

"We inform the Salvadoran people, the Red Cross International Committee, Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador that we are seriously reconsidering the case of the Englishmen Ian Massie and Michael Chatterton, since it presents very complex characteristics, in view of which it is impossible to predict the outcome," the document states.

HONDURAS

COMMITTEE CLAIMS SANDINIST COMMANDER HELD BY GOVERNMENT

PA112154 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1726 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan people charged here today that a commander of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) is in one of the cells of the Department of National Investigation.

The name of the guerrilla is Victor Antonio Romero. The Honduran authorities have denied that they are holding Romero, and for this reason the committee believes that "they intend to turn him over to the Nicaraguan National Guard."

Spokesmen for the committee have said that they learned of Romero's capture through another prisoner who shared the same cell with him. This prisoner has warned about the intentions of the Honduran police to turn Romero over to the Nicaraguan authorities.

The Honduran Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan people has announced that it will wage a campaign to prevent the deportation of the Sandinist commander to Nicaragua. So far, the Honduran Government has not officially turned any Sandinists over to the Managua authorities.

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL GUARD, FSLN CONTINUE FIGHTING IN ESTELI

Esteli Shelling Denial

PA111253 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0919 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (LATIN)--Col Aquiles Aranda, official spokesman for the Nicaraguan National Guard, promised last night that the military operation to recover the city of Esteli, which was partially taken by Sandinist rebel forces on Sunday, will seek to minimize the loss of lives and destruction.

"I emphatically deny that Esteli was shelled yesterday," the officer added. "Only insurgent positions on the perimeter of the city were machinegunned." He said that the operation was carefully planned by the Esteli military command, following instructions from "higher authorities," who have demanded that law and order be restored, but with "the least possible loss of lives and property damage."

In September of last year, National Guard action to recover Esteli from a similar rebel occupation was accompanied by continuous air attacks which caused enormous destruction and a great loss of innocent lives.

Aranda gave no details regarding the confrontations that occurred yesterday. He said that the greatest problem being faced by the authorities is that "adult Sandinists have given weapons to minors, practically children, and they are using them as shields."

The officer revealed that the National Guard has received reports that the rebels occupying Esteli have executed several civilian supporters of the government after trying them in "revolutionary courts."

When Colonel Aranda, whose official title is chief of the National Guard Office of Legal and Public Relations, was asked about reports that a Sandinist column had taken the town of San Rafael del Norte in Jinotega Department, he answered that "the city was attacked, but several military units responded immediately and forced the rebels to flee." He added that the rebels also attacked La Concordia, a city close to San Rafael del Norte.

Colonel Aranda added that in Campuzano, Masaya Department, some 15 km from Managua, several so-called revolutionary elements appeared at a party, where they killed a judge, the town's principal official, and three other persons. In addition, the insurgents killed a Somozist leader at a station in Nindiri, a city near Masaya.

Meanwhile, Wilfred Cross, acting president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the absence of the incumbent, Ismael Reyes, reported that the organization plans to send a convoy to Esteli today with aid for the townspeople; however, he said that military authorities have said that they cannot participate in the effort while the operation to recover the city is underway. Foreign representatives of the International Red Cross who were scheduled to leave the country after spending several months here are remaining. During a session last night, the Red Cross Board of Directors declared the organization in a "state of emergency."

Battle Reports Prohibition

PA111454 San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Text] The Nicaraguan National Guard Radio and Television Office this morning forbade newscasts to report on the war situation across the nation.

A communique signed by Col Alberto Luna, chief of this military office, warns the directors of newscasts that radio stations may be closed and fined if they do not heed the order. Our special reporter in Managua, Abel Calero, reported that no radio stations were able to report this morning on the events occurring in that nation.

Heavy Fighting

PA111459 San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1430 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Fierce battles were waged at dawn today near the city of Esteli, where Sandinists are resisting the attacks of the Nicaraguan National Guard. Early reports from that city received just a few minutes ago in Managua state that fighting occurred in the localities of El Zapote, near Esteli, and in the annex of the normal school just outside the city besieged by the National Guard.

Abel Calero, an announcer for Radio Quinientos Noventa of Managua, reports that the National Guard used flares when attacking the Saninist positions with mortar fire and grenades.

'Confusing' Reports

PA111558 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1527 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Fighting between the Sandinists and government troops was resumed early today in Esteli. Shots can be heard in the southern sector of this northern Nicaraguan city, which was partially seized on Sunday by a Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) column.

The information available on these clashes is confusing. It is being rumored that 14 injured persons have been taken to San Juan de Dios Hospital in Esteli. Doctors there lack medicines and other facilities. So far, it has not been possible to determine if the casualties were guerrillas, soldiers or civilians. The Red Cross has burned several cadavers that were in the streets.

Sandinist Communique

PA111745 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--A Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) war communique released here today reports the death of dozens of Nicaraguan National Guardsmen.

According to the communique, the Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front has seized Ciudad Sandino (El Jicaro), destroyed the garrisons at Condega, La Concordia, Achuapa, El Sauce, Limay, San Rafael del Norte, Santa Cruz and La Trinidad and seized Esteli.

The document claims that the Nicaraguan Air Force has bombed and machinegunned several towns causing damage and killing dozens of people.

Two of the planes attacking the Sandinists were shot down, the Sandinist communique affirms, while stressing the fact that the civilian population has been cooperating with them.

Regarding the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front, the document says that the National Guard garrison in the Orosi zone was surrounded and destroyed. One Sandinist was injured during this operation, it adds.

A National Guard patrol was ambushed in the Pizote area, on the shores of the Gran Lago de Upala, and four soldiers were killed.

More than 30 Somozist guards reportedly fell during an attack conducted by the Filoberto Lopez Perez Western Front. The document also highlights an ambush against three patrols of the Special Antiterrorist Brigade (BECAT) in which five guardsmen were killed and three others were injured. The Sandinists suffered one casualty in this operation.

The FSLN also affirms that five other BECAT patrols were attacked later with bombs and rifles at an undetermined location. Two other BECAT units were attacked in Chinandega, where two soldiers were killed.

Regarding the Camilo Ortega Central Front in Managua, the guerrilla document adds that the tail end of a convoy of jeeps and trucks carrying National Guard reinforcements was attacked at a bridge located in El Eden neighborhood. An undetermined number of soldiers died in this attack and five guerrillas were injured.

The Ulises Tapia Roja Eastern Front saw action in Granada, where it destroyed a BECAT patrol. Five soldiers died there, "among them, well-known thug Gato Colindres."

A gasoline station was seized in Masaya as a diversionary tactic aimed at attacking the reinforcement patrols.

Situation Uncertain

PA112005 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Special report by Maria Elena Artola Juarez of Radio Mundial, Managua, Nicaragua--presumably recorded]

[Excerpts] The feeling of uncertainty is rampant in Nicaraguan homes. This feeling increased this morning when the Legal Office and the Radio and Television Office under Col Alberto Luna Solorzano prohibited all the written and spoken press to report on what was going on in the Esteli Department and some parts of Leon, where the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] seized power last weekend and is not permitting the National Guard to enter the area.

According to unofficial National Guard reports, the FSLN has modern and powerful weapons, which allows them to control Esteli Department. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has been unable to penetrate into Esteli to help the population.

Also in Managua, there is uncertainty since contact bombs are constantly being heard. There has been intense shooting during the night and the civilian population cannot travel about after 6 pm.

Meanwhile, in the city of Masaya, civilians are suffering the consequences of the current political situation. The National Guard does not respect civilians and repression is primarily directed at the young people.

Widespread Military Presence

PA112006 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Special report by Pablo Candia, news director of Radio Mundial, from Jinotepe, Nicaragua--presumably recorded]

[Excerpts] A few moments ago, I returned from a visit to the capital and other cities such as Masaya, Pasatepe, San Marcos and Carazo. The feeling in Nicaragua is that Holy Week does not exist, according to what we were able to see.

Entering Managua on the southern highway from Jinotepe, there is a military roadblock where vehicles entering the city are being searched. The absence of vehicles in the capital is noticeable. Also, most stores have closed, even the most humble diner in the capital closed today. On roads between the capital and the main cities, such as Masaya to the north, and to the south, strong military contingents are deploying. The city of Masaya is a little more pleasant than the capital. Meanwhile, it was reported that there were disorders in Masaya yesterday afternoon when several bombs exploded, and there were sporadic clashes between civilians and National Guardsmen.

In the meantime, here in Jinotepe, from where we are filing this report for Radio Libertad, a group of unidentified persons yesterday broke into the home of Dr (Bismark) Estrada and killed him. There are conflicting reports on this incident. One says that several insurgents had taken refuge in the doctor's home and were presumably killed by the military. But a last-minute report states that Dr (Bismark) Estrada was killed by rebels who entered his home because he had Somozist ancestors.

Fighting in Esteli

PA112235 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Sandinist guerrillas and troops loyal to Gen Anastasio Somoza clashed shortly after midday today.

Guerrilla columns identified as "Filimon Rivera" and "Teodoro Lopez" entered Esteli, 150 km north of Managua, on Sunday. The insurgent forces of the "Carlos Fonseca Amador" Northern Front occupied a large part of the city. About 100 National Guardsmen who were searching homes at the time of the guerrilla incursion retreated to command headquarters, where they remained. Today, however, both forces clashed. Residents of Esteli reported to the capital by telephone that fighting was underway in the main street of the city.

The guerrillas are effectively holding on to their positions in the center of the city. Army troops control the northern sector of the city where the command headquarters is located.

'Honduran Peasant' Invasion

PA120433 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 11 Apr 79 PA

[Report from Managua Radio Mundial for Panama City Radio Libertad--live]

[Excerpts] In Granada, some 45 km from Managua, it was reported that 17-year-old Eduardo Jose Caldera was killed by unidentified persons. In this same city a powerful bomb partially destroyed the home of Cesar Augusto de la Rocha, legal adviser to the National Guard command in Granada.

The National Guard searched the (?Alahuinos) District, the La Merced Church District and several supermarkets. The National Guard was reportedly seeking rebels who had entered Granada this morning.

It was also revealed that several hundred Honduran peasants invaded the northern region this morning and advanced as far as [word indistinct]. No further information has been obtained because of the distance of this region and because communications have been cut in the war zone. However, [words indistinct] this invasion of Honduran peasants in northern Nicaraguan which is a forbidden region in which only rebels and members of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces exist.

Situation Deteriorating

PA120126 Paris AFP in Spanish 0024 GMT 12 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (AFP)--The situation in Nicaragua clearly deteriorated Wednesday. The authorities decided to isolate Managua and Esteli, located 150 km north of the capital and occupied by Sandinist rebels since Monday.

At the same time, large demonstrations were announced (?over the past) few hours throughout the country. They are being organized by the two main labor centrals: the General Labor Confederation, which is Marxist oriented, and the Nationalist Confederation, which is oriented toward the Social Christians.

According to the two centrals, the demonstrations are aimed at contributing to the overthrow of the dictatorship through protests against the price increase caused by the 70 percent devaluation [words indistinct] of Nicaragua's cordoba.

Meanwhile, the combatants of the Sandinist National Liberation Front today occupied three small towns: Jicaral, El Sauce and Chuapan, located between Esteli and Managua, and began preparing their defenses against regular troops.

All roads between Managua and the remainder of the country have been closed since Wednesday. The city of Esteli was completely surrounded by a cordon of airborne troops who are keeping the Sandinists in check. Telephone lines to Esteli have been cut. The 300 Sandinists who infiltrated among the 40,000 inhabitants of [word indistinct] are being pursued.

According to Managua military sources, the army has adopted the tactic of isolation rather than destruction through bombing as carried out by the army in September against the same city.

Moreover, four Sandinist leaders were captured near Esteli, the same source added. Their names are being kept secret, but it is expected that they will be presented to newsmen within the next few hours.

The fighting between the army and 600 Sandinists continues in Leon and Chinandega departments northwest of Managua. The Sandinists are operating in various places and the National Guard has not been able to suppress them yet.

In Managua, observers believe that the military authorities are trying to avoid a direct confrontation with the Sandinist combatants at any price since it could result in a holocaust for the civilian population. The observers believe that this attitude stems from the desire not to provoke an international wave of protest and indignation similar to that of last year.

Telephone lines between Managua and the rest of the world continued working Wednesday night, but the only access to the capital was by air. President Anastasio Somoza must return to the country by air on Monday after spending a Holy Week vacation in Miami.

An official military source in Managua reported on Tuesday that General Somoza felt that the situation was under control and that he was directing the anti-Sandinist operations from the United States.

Airport Service 'Normal'

PA120242 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0048 GMT 12 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (LATIN)--Lt Col Orlando Torres, Las Mercedes International Airport administrator, told LATIN today that the airport is still providing normal service, thus denying rumors that it had been occupied by Sandinist guerrillas.

The general headquarters of the Nicaraguan Air Force is located next to the airport. Constant takeoffs and landings of planes and helicopters can be observed there. The entire airport area is under strict surveillance.

Esteli Evacuation 'Urgent'

PA120224 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0125 GMT 12 Apr 79 PA

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Excerpts] Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Wilfred Cross, acting president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, said today that "it is urgent to evacuate the civilian population of Esteli."

The city in question has been partially occupied by columns of the Sandinist National Liberation Front since Sunday. Today, Esteli was the scene of violent fighting between guerrilla forces and National Guard troops loyal to Gen Anastasio Somoza.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross today took relief supplies to Esteli for the first time since the guerrillas entered the city. A group of nine Red Cross members arrived at Esteli in a special convoy today and stayed there for 3 hours. "During the 3 hours that we were in Esteli, it seemed to us as if we were in hell," Cross said. He added that the civilian population, mainly children, women and old people, must "be nervous wrecks."

"Those people have been putting up with a situation similar to purgatory, hearing the exchange of shots, and suffering a scarcity of water and food without knowing what will finally happen," Cross said. He added that for these reasons, the evacuation of the civilians from Esteli is urgent. He said that the Red Cross did not have government authorization to evacuate Esteli when they visited the city, the site of the confrontation. However, it was reported that Paul Schoch, a member of the International Red Cross committee, will meet tomorrow with top army officers to discuss a possible evacuation. "That humanitarian task is necessary in Esteli," Cross stressed.

The Red Cross also took fuel to Esteli for the emergency generator at the hospital and the Red Cross. The gasoline will also serve to mobilize the two ambulances and 15 Red Cross members in Esteli. The Red Cross members could not travel because of a lack of gasoline.

Fighting Continues

PA120207 Paris AFP in Spanish 0138 GMT 12 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (AFP)--The National Guard and Sandinist guerrillas occupying Esteli since Monday [as received] continued their bloody battle for control of the city tonight, according to military spokesmen. At 1800 (0000 GMT), the army announced that its units were slowly advancing in the city and had been able to occupy seven blocks that were formerly in the hands of the Sandinists.

Official army spokesman Col Aquiles Aranda, who made the foregoing report, noted, however, that so far it is impossible to determine the number of casualties sustained by the Sandinists. He (?refused) to specify those of his corps. According to Aranda, the army has been able to recover the offices of the state communications company, a high school and a children's nursery that the Sandinists had been holding since Saturday. Aranda also told AFP that the Sandinists set fire to the mayor's office and the army garrison located in the center of the city.

Members of a Red Cross convoy who returned from Esteli (?said) the Sandinists were repelling the troops' advance with strategically (?placed) snipers. They termed the situation in the city critical and noted that the civilian population is at home. The national Red Cross officials who returned today also noted that fighting in the city may continue for several days.

Official army spokesman Col Aquiles Aranda, while declining to answer one newsman's question, said that the Sandinists might be evicted today.

Nicaragua's Red Cross director said that it is increasingly difficult to supply the city and reported that he could not tell whether the Red Cross would return to the city. He said that a safe-conduct is needed from the higher military command in order to return to Esteli to aid the victims of the fighting.

National Guard Ultimatum

PA120438 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0340 GMT 12 Apr 79 PA

[Text] The Nicaraguan National Guard warns the Sandinist guerrillas that the city of Esteli is completely surrounded and blocked off. The Nicaraguan military forces warn the guerrillas that they will have to fight to the last man or surrender.

The situation in Esteli is critical. The official number of dead during the Easter offensive in Nicaragua has been estimated at from 80 to 100 persons. Esteli is in the hands of the Sandinists. Somoza denies the possibility of exiling himself in the United States, while in his country soldiers and civilians are dying in bloody battles.

Radio Sandino Warning

PA111630 [Editorial Report PA] (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 0400 GMT on 11 April carries a longer version of the item entitled "National Guard, FSLN Continue Fighting in Esteli," and subheaded "Radio Sandino Rebuttal" which appeared on page 5 of the 11 April Latin America DAILY REPORT. The two versions are identical, but the repeated item adds the following:

"Lastly, we also had reports that the United States today deployed its 5th war fleet with several destroyers and aircraft carriers toward the Central American coast, which implies that Yankee imperialism wants to continue to intervene in our country.

"We alert our people and the entire world regarding the obscure purposes that could be behind this operation against the suffering people of Nicaragua, exploited unmercifully by Yankee imperialism since the beginning of this century. We also add that the morale of our combatants, against that of the Somozist guard, has become evident in these past... [sentence incomplete]"

San Rafael del Norte Recovered

PA121227 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0955 GMT 12 Apr 79 PA

[By Agustin Fuentes; delayed processing]

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Apr (LATIN)--Nicaraguan National Guard troops who are trying to recover control of sectors of the city of Esteli have encountered strong resistance from the guerrillas of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] who have occupied the city since Sunday.

A National Guard spokesman revealed last night that government forces recovered the town of San Rafael del Norte, in Jinotega Department, which had been occupied by the insurgents for 2 days. No report has been issued concerning casualties in that operation.

Meanwhile, unidentified elements set fire to many summer residences in the Pochomil beach resort on the Pacific coast, 64 km southeast of Managua, and in the area around the Monte Limar estate, which is owned by President Anastasio Somoza, who is in the United States for a short vocation. Firemen in Managua refused to go to the beach resort because of the lack of security on the highways.

Some days ago, the clandestine radio station Radio Sandino warned Nicaraguans not to go to vacation areas during Holy Week. The guerrillas threatened to conduct acts of sabotage against bars and places of entertainment.

During the night several buses were burned in La Fuente neighborhood, in southeastern Managua. Policemen who were present in the area were unable to locate the persons responsible for this action.

TODOR ZHIVKOV CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

Cooperation Agreements

FL120201 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, this afternoon signed the program outlining the foundation for the development of economic, scientific and technical cooperation and socialist integration between the two countries starting in 1980. This important document provides the groundwork for the future development of relations between Cuba and Bulgaria and strengthens still more the revolutionary brotherhood existing between the two socialist countries.

Earlier in the day, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and his Bulgarian counterpart Petur Mladenov signed the bilateral agreements on jurisdical orientation, those of a civil nature as well as a penal nature, which is important because it is the first one signed by Cuba in this field. The objective of this document is to regulate the juridical relations of citizens from the two countries. Likewise, a protocol was signed for the exchange of instruments on the ratification of the agreement on consular relations between the two countries.

Following the signing ceremony, Fidel and Zhivkov had a statement for the newsmen. [Begin Fidel Castro recording] I would like to express...I would like to take this opportunity to express our great satisfaction over the fact that the first Bulgarian cosmonaut began his voyage in space when Comrade Zhivkov was visiting our country. This leads me to believe that in part he is not just representing Bulgaria but is also representing our country. I would like to convey to him very warm congratulations and wish him complete and total success in his voyage. From what I hear, he is in excellent health. I am sure he will remain healthy throughout the flight, and that he is going to return from the cosmos healthier. I also wish him lots of health. [end recording]

Departure Ceremony

FL112109 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 2043 GMT on 11 April begins live coverage of departure of Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of State, from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. As coverage begins, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Zhivkov are seen standing waiting for military ceremony to begin. After the Cuban and Bulgarian national anthems are played, the two leaders review the honor guard and shake hands with Cuban party and government leaders, as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba. Zhivkov approaches a group of Cubans who are waving Cuban and Bulgarian flags and shakes hands with some of them. As Zhivkov and Fidel Castro approach the aircraft ramp, some other Cuban leaders, among them Army Gen Raul Castro, bid farewell to the Bulgarian leader. At 2056 GMT Zhivkok walks up the ramp and waves his hands before entering the aircraft. The aircraft, a TU-154 jetliner, takes off at 2106 GMT. Coverage ends at 2107 GMT.

Zhivkov Farewell Message

FL120219 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Following is the text of the message sent to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro by Comrade Todor Zhivkov from the aircraft taking him back home. The message states:

Dear Comrade Fidel Castro: As I leave the marvelous island of freedom, I would like to express to you and, through you, to the PCC Central Committee, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba and the fraternal Cuban people my most cordial gratitude for the warm welcome, for the warm feelings and sympathy toward the Bulgarian people, the Bulgarian Communist Party and all of us.

Our meetings and conversations, which were held in an atmosphere of true friendship, were an expression of the fraternal friendship uniting our two peoples. We are deeply convinced that this will give renewed impetus to the future increase and enrichment of multilateral cooperation between our parties, governments and peoples and will contribute to the consolidation of the unity of the socialist community.

Dear Comrade Fidel, please accept our best wishes for future multilateral successes in building the socialist society in your fatherland. Signed, Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH SUSLOV IN MOSCOW

FL111641 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1635 GMT 11 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Mikhail Suslov, member of the CPSU Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today met at the Kremlin with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. CPSU Central Committee Secretary Konstantin Rusakov attended the meeting, which was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

BLAS ROCA MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF GUAIMARO CONSTITUTION

FL110157 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 0031 GMT on 11 April carries live coverage of the national commemoration of the 110th anniversary of the Guaimaro constitution proclamation from the city of Guaimaro, Camaguey Province. National Assembly President Blas Roca is the announced speaker.

As coverage begins, the camera pans the crowd and the dais. Following the national anthem, the announcer reports that Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosques and Blas Roca Calderio are presiding at the ceremony. A Pioneer presents to Blas Roca an album in which all activities of the Guaimaro Pioneers are listed.

At 0034 GMT the announcer introduces Blas Roca. In his opening remarks Blas Roca mentions the album presented to him by the Pioneers and recalls that 1979 is the International Year of the Child. He says this is a beautiful way to begin the ceremony.

Referring to Guaimaro, Roca says that 110 years ago the Cuban patriots proclaimed it a free city. According to Marti, he adds, "Guaimaro would become a part of history and sacrifice." Roca says that Guaimaro was the site where all patriots, who were separated by places of origin and political beliefs, came to meet and agree on the ways to combat the common enemy and, ultimately, adopt the first constitution of the independent state they planned to create.

Boca then explains in detail the activities preceding the proclamation of the Guaimaro constitution. He mentions the Las Demajagua call to arms by Carlos Manuel de Cespedes in 1868. From then on, he says, the Cubans united into an army of liberation.

He goes of enumerating the many battles waged and the numerous Cuban patriots who led the Mambi army.

Referring to a speech made by Fidel Castro at the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death in combat of Maj Gen Ignacio Agramonte, Roca says he summed up the outstanding results of the Guaimaro meeting as follows: "At Guaimaro, a liberated town, the representatives of Camaguey, Oriente, Las Villas and Havana met to prepare a constitution, to establish certain government structures, to conciliate opposing opinions, and there emerged the historic Guaimaro constitution, the president of the republic was elected, a commander in chief was designated and a house of representatives was established. The process that led to such results was very difficult." He adds that prior to the Guaimaro event the Cuban patriots held numerous meetings.

After devoting a large portion of the speech to a detailed historical narrative, Roca says Cuba is now living another revolutionary phase of its history, "One which has forever freed the country from all types of exploitation under the expert leadership of Comrade Fidel." He adds that Cuba now is building socialism and communism in a free society where men and women work for a better future. "Under the brilliant leadership of Fidel, the revolution is achieving the dreams of Guaimaro and La Demajagua, of 1868 and 1895, of a real independence, of a real national sovereignty, of a democracy that is not just limited to equality before the law or general rights but which advocates equality in life, the genuine equality resulting from the elimination of social classes," Roca adds.

"Cuba will continue to build socialism in alliance with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries; will march toward communism. Cuba will continue to march forward together with the nonalined countries and the world's progressive forces, fighting against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid. It will continue to fight for peace and detente. Cuba will continue to be loyal to proletarian internationalism," Roca stresses.

Roca says that Cuba's socialist Constitution was adopted in 1976, a document which institutionalized the revolution. Roca adds that between the Buaimaro constitution and the socialist Constitution not only is there more than 1 century of separation, but also the greater distance of the historic phases lived by the nation and its people. He says that "the 20th century, our century, in historic sense is the century of the initial victory of the socialist revolution, the era of transit from capitalism to socialism, of the defeat and elimination of colonialism, of the entrance of Africa and part of Asia into the scenario of contemporary universal history."

In closing, Roca states that "the Cuban people are preparing to fulfill the task assigned to them of hosting the sixth nonalined countries summit conference, the grand meeting of chiefs of state and government of nonalined countries. This will be one more success of solidarity, of anti-imperialism, of anticolonialism, of antineocolonialism and antiracism; one more success of the solidarity of the peoples for the sake of peace and detente. Guaimaro took place 110 years ago. In the years since, our people have traversed great distances. Those who want to know what has happened in those 110 years must tour Camaguey, Guaimaro. They will be able to observe what has been done in 20 years of revolution. If we have done this much in 20 years, imagine what we can do in a few more years with the effort of all Cubans, with the effort of all citizens, with the effort of all workers. Fatherland or death, we shall win!"

As Roca ends his speech at 0124 GMT, the camera returns to the studio, concluding coverage of the ceremony.

GUZMAN WELCOMES FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO OFFICIAL VISIT

FL120132 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2056 GMT 11 Apr 79 FL

[Speech by Dominican President Antonio Guzman at airport welcoming ceremony for FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt on 11 April--live]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr Chancellor, Your Excellency Mrs Schmidt, members of your entourage: It is of great satisfaction for us to welcome for the first time a chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany on Dominican territory. In addition to your high office, we are pleased to welcome someone prominent in European politics and an influential and prestigious leader of one of the exemplary countries of today's world.

Unquestionably, Federal Germany is an example of what a country is capable of doing. Starting from the ruins left behind by a war, it has built and reemerged with greater vigor and strength because of the iron will, patriotism and clear vision of the future of people who knew what to do for the love of the fatherland.

What we have just pointed out has been and will continue to be a living example, above all, for people like ours who are struggling with great difficulty to overcome great obstacles, such as those encountered by the German people. They have demonstrated that a nation can again become great, prosperous and happy in a short period of time as the result of effort and hard work and, above all, their spirit of sacrifice.

Mr Chancellor, here you will find the admiration and respect of all our people for your high office, for your international fame as a statesman and politician. However, I am sorry to say that during these days our fellow citizens observe Holy Week--as we Catholics call it--a week when we remain in seclusion, away from the hustle and bustle of the cities, which will limit the popular demonstrations of friendship that would have been different at any other time. Doubtlessly, your presence is a motive of great joy because the Dominican people have followed with great interest the accomplishments of and the example set by the noble country you represent. For our people, the mere fact that an object has been manufactured in Germany is a guarantee, a seal of responsibility and quality.

Today our people wish to express the respect and admiration that your society deserves for its organization, social structures and advances in science and technology, and for its efforts to control nature, which is man's destiny on earth.

Your country's most beautiful gesture is the manner in which developing countries such as ours have been allowed to participate in your progress and advances, countries which dearly need your experience, your humanitarian feelings and fine spirituality.

We are a young government, which emerged out of the free and majority expression of the people, who greatly wanted changes in representative democracy and economic and social advance on the true path toward progress in all its phases. I can assure you that our people are determined to cooperate in this noble task, to sacrifice themselves and contribute everything that might be useful and necessary to consolidate the foundation of the democratic system, as provided for by our Constitution and which was the ideal of the forgers of our nationality.

Allow me, Mr Chancellor, to give you the warmest welcome to this land and wish you and those accompanying you a pleasant stay, which will surely be most fruitful and bright for us. Thank you very much.

GRENADA

BISHOP INTERVIEWED ON REVOLUTION, GOVERNMENT PLANS

FL101235 Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 1 Apr 79 pp 1, 3 FL

[Excerpts] Maurice Bishop, the leader of Grenada's recent revolution and now the spice island's prime minister, is a very busy man these days, as the SUNDAY GUARDIAN found out last week when our reporter tried to interview him by telephone and find out where Grenada goes from here. Finally we caught up with Mr Bishop at his home. The time? Midnight. But he answered all questions put to him in the interview, which we publish today.

Q: At a rally in Grenada a few days ago, you announced that Gairy had resigned. In what circumstance did he resign? Did he communicate his resignation to the governor-general, and have you been sworn in in accordance with constitution?

Bishop: The announcement of Gairy's resignation came via a radio announcement from Antigua, where we understand Derek Knight spoke on Gairy's behalf. This was relayed to us, but in reality Gairy's resignation or non-resignation was of no importance. And, indeed, he had no option. So whether it was submitted to the governor-general or not was meaningless.

Q: It is being said, however, that a deal was made to get his resignation; for example, allowing him to have some of his assets in Grenada. Is this true?

No Option

Bishop: There is absolutely no truth whatsoever in that rumour. Gairy had absolutely no option at all, and as far as the revolution was concerned, it mattered not whether he was resigning or not.

Indeed Gairy's resignation is of even less significance in the light of the developments of Sunday, March 25. At our second rally since the revolution, we made a declaration of the Grenada revolution and formally suspended the constitution, establishing the provisional revolutionary government.

We also established our own Supreme Court, retaining the queen and governor-general. We named ten peoples' laws and set out a future course to be followed. So you see by suspending the constitution, the whole issue of Gairy's resignation is of no relevance.

Q: You have said that the governor-general is to be retained. But he was appointed by the Gairy regime. How do you feel working with him, and how will he want to work with you? Have you been sworn in by him as prime minister?

Bishop: The revolutionary Government of Grenada remains in the Commonwealth, and we envisage no problems with the governor-general. There has been no swearing-in of a prime minister as yet. The governor-general is very friendly disposed to us, and we are in constant contact with him.

One thing I can tell you at this stage is that we hope to have for the governor-general under the new constitution a role that is more symbolic than has obtained in the past.

We have also established a Constituent Assembly which will look at finding a new constitution and establishing a programme for elections.

Q: How soon will elections take place?

Bishop: It is impossible to be more precise than to say we hope to do so within a year. But already we have a process of enumeration and this, in itself, will take about six weeks to two months. The move is to establish a permanent voters list. Work of this has already started, and we hope soon to have Grenada well on the road to the restoration of its democratic traditions, which Gairy thoroughly subverted for his own ends.

Q: Apart from the voters list, what are your immediate tasks?

Bishop: First of all, there is the consolidation of the revolution itself. Remember that Gairy is still making efforts to get mercenaries or "hit men" types to come to Grenada. He is not the sort to give up so easily, and we have to see his actions as a continuing threat.

Secondly, although we are having absolutely no resistance internally, one has to be realistic and face the fact that there will be some sort of internal resistance from pro-Gairy people. The real problem here is the criminal element--the type that Gairy used for his own ends. They are the real danger, and there are arms floating around, and Gairy is still sending messages to them inciting them because, as I mentioned earlier, he is not the type to give up so easily.

So we have to watch two things: (A) External aggression via Gairy and any mercenaries he can buy, and (B) Internal resistance from pro-Gairy people. But above all, our greatest effort has to be getting on with the running of the Cabinet of seven ministers, who will assume office in a few days. We have also appointed a commission of enquiry into corruption by government ministeres, trade unions and the Nutmeg, Cocoa and Banana Association. That alone is a tremendous task, as there are hundreds of files; and since the revolution, quite a number have disappeared.

Q: Since the revolution, several persons have been held in detention. Why is it necessary to do this?

Bishop: Most of these people have been associated with Gairy for as long as 20 years. Consequently, there is bound to be a feeling of closeness or loyalty to him. We fear that, let loose, some may try to disrupt the effort to get Grenada back on the just and democratic lines we are trying to do. In addition, people like Gairy, Knight and Friday, who are abroad, would be able to use them as a base and try to frustrate the revolution. It would, therefore, be foolhardy to let them out at this stage. There are those who would be able to come out and return to normal life, but we have to be certain of that.

In the meantime, we are reviewing their detention on a regular basis, and they are all being cared for properly, and the press can talk to them at any time.

Court Inquiry

Q: Reports coming out of Grenada have given contradictory reports about loss of life. Could you state how many fatalities occurred during the day of the revolution, and the circumstances in which they happened? Also, will there be an inquest into these deaths?

Bishop: There were three deaths. The first was Lt Brizan of the defence force. He did not live at army barracks, but on hearing that our soldiers had taken it over, he came down and refused to surrender. In fact, he was drawing his own revolver when he was shot by one of our men.

The second was a policeman by the name of Pysadee, who was seen in company with one of the most notorious of Gairy's Mongoose Gang. In the crossfire, Pysadee was shot, and there appears to be some doubt as to who actually shot him. We deeply regret this death.

The third was one of our own soldiers, Patrick Mitchell, who was shot while handling his own gun. In the normal course of things, there should be a coroner's inquest, and I am taking legal advice to see how this can be done.

Q: It has been reported that the revolution was carried out with outside help, and that a group of soldiers from Cuba did the whole thing. Did you have any outside help?

Bishop: We had absolutely no outside help. The report on the Cuban element is such utter rubbish, such unadulterated rubbish that it hardly warrants comment. Our entire strategy was to take the radio station and call on the people to respond. We took the radio station at 5.30 a.m., and if there had been no response from the people of Grenada, we would all have been dead. This was a Grenadian revolt against a tyrant, and the Grenadians did it.

Q: But where did you get the guns?

Bishop: We got our arms from our contact within the security forces of Grenada, and that is a fact.

Contact Basis

Q: Let us look at the situation concerning the courts. Court sittings were suspended for a week; now you have announced the setting up of the people's supreme court. What does that mean?

Bishop: First, let me state that the court sittings were suspended so as to avoid any misunderstanding. The sittings have now been resumed. The Grenada high court has, in fact, only one judge resident in Grenada. The court of appeal of the West Indies Associated States is based in Grenada and comprises three permanent judges. But the appelate court sits for only a few days in any given year in Grenada, because it is, in effect, an itinerant court.

The one Grenadian high court judge has expressed the wish to continue to sit and he, of course, will continue to be our supreme court judge.

The situation of the appelate court is somewhat different. If we cannot come to terms with the Associated States, then we will do our own thing. We will look around for judges of the necessary calibre and skill, and invite them, on a contract basis, to sit as appeal court judges. In Grenada, from time to time, there are any number of such men of calibre available.

Q: External recognition is one thing, but what about internal support? How strong is the revolution?

Bishop: So far we have been buoyed up and supported by the people and their institutions. The Chamber of Commerce, the Trade Union Council, which reported its views to last week's Caribbean Labour Congress meeting in Barbados, have all given us their support, as in fact have all the democratic forces in Grenada. The church has been very warm, and Sunday, March 25, was observed as a day of thanks-giving in the church. In short, this has been a people's revolution, and if the people were not responding we would be dead.

Q: But surely Gairy has supporters who voted for him in the last election. What about them?

Bishop: Well certainly there are Gairy supporters, but there is no sign of resistance from these. Gairy's main base was centered in the peasant farmers, and in recent times there were signs that this support was cracking. Since the revolution, we have suspended the payment of union dues, and the farmers have agreed to establish workers councils on farms, so we do not see any problems there.

As I said earlier, the real internal threat from Gairy's followers will be among the criminal element which he recruited to do his dirty work. They are dangerous, and armed, and we know they would kill us if they got the chance, so we are taking the maximum precaution.

Q: In 1972 at the time of this disturbance, the financial state of Grenada was very bad. What is the position now? And what is the attitude of civil servants to the change?

Bishop: The finances of Grenada are a great mystery. Bernard Coard, who is the minister of finance, has been trying to find out, and so far what he has unearthed is unbelievable.

A short audit will take two weeks, and this has already begun. One of the problems is that Gairy so demoralised the public service that no one seems to know anything. No one could say how much money was being paid per month, for example, on services or salaries, etc. It seems that Grenada's finances were very much a hit and miss affair with Gairy calling the tune.

We are very anxious to find out what the real position is so that we could make a report to the people. So far as the top civil servants are concerned, we have encountered no hostility, and there is no evidence of documents being sabotaged, so we hope to have a short audit at least in a few weeks' time.

Q: The revolution is now two weeks old. Looking back, what are your feelings?

Bishop: We have no regrets at all that we took this action. We are clear in our minds that people who are oppressed must take matters into their hands.

Gairy had subverted our constitution and was, in effect, operating a dictatorship under the guise of constitutionality, and many people outside Grenada believed him to be a constitutional leader when, in fact, he was nothing more than a dictator in a country that was supposed to be democratic and with a democratic constitution.

Revolution Day

We acted on March 13 in the name of the people and for the people. Our task now is to restore a democratic constitution and put Grenada back on the normal road of justice for all.

Q: To what extent has life in Grenada returned to normal?

Bishop: Normalcy has already been restored. In fact, from the very next day it was business as usual with schools, shops, hospitals all operating. The tourist ships never stopped calling and, in fact, on revolution day there were two tourist ships in port, and they came ashore as usual. We are well on the way to law and order.

BISHOP CONCERNED OVER MERCENARY THREAT

FL101630 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Saint Georges, Thurs: Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop today expressed grave concern over threats of an external invasion by mercenary forces recruited by the islands ousted leader Eric Gairy.

Bishop told a press conference this afternoon: "At this point in time the country is in danger, and the possibility of external invasion by mercenary forces recruited by the dictator Gairy is a real one."

The prime minister said that his intelligence service and governmental contacts in the region have informed him of certain contacts Gairy has made.

"What we have now, however, is information of a much more concrete and much more dangerous character. This information comes from two governments in the CARICOM region stating that Gairy has recently made an approach to El Condor, a group of Cuban exiles, mostly based in Miami, and the same group that was responsible for the fatal bombing of the Cubana aircraft outside Barabados in 1976. That of course is important information that we have a duty to communicate to the people of the country and also to the mass media."

Bishop said, "We also intercepted two communications addressed to Francis Redhead, who was Grenada's ambassador to the U.S. up until the coup on March 13 when Gairy was toppled from office. The letters give very full evidence of links between Gairy and certain underworld characters "who are willing to finance and equip some form of invasion to Grenada, and evidence of his interest and intention in trying to see what ways he can get back or turn back the clock to March 12," Bishop tells newsmen.

JAMAICA

MANLEY CONTINUES MOSCOW VISIT; REMARKS AT DINNER

FL111307 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley is expected to hold a second round of talks with Soviet Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin in Moscow today.

The Soviet prime minister has expressed satisfaction with the talks he held with Mr Manley yesterday. Speaking at a dinner hosted for Prime Minister Manley yesterday, Mr Kosygin commended Mr Manley for his persistency in the domestic struggle to improve the conditions of poor Jamaicans, and for the government's anti-imperialist stand in foreign policy. Mr Kosygin said the improved relations between Jamaica and the Soviet Union were being pursued on the principles of sovereign equality and noninterference in the internal affairs of each country. He noted Jamaica's active participation in the nonalined movement, emphasizing that the unity of nonalined and socialist countries was a prerequisite for maintaining peace in the world and for eliminating colonialism and [word indistinct] aggressions.

[Words indistinct] to the dinner, Prime Minister Manley praised the Soviet Union for its consistent support for the liberation struggle of the [words indistinct] southern Africa and for its stand on detente. Manley said that Jamaica is still suffering from imperialist penetration of the economy and the developed productive forces and a geographical environment hostile to socialist construction.